

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 22 as follows:

In a further aspect of the present invention, a kit containing one ~~ore~~ or more reagents for performing capillary electrophoresis is provided wherein the one or more reagents include one or more probes comprised of one or more vinyllogous carboxylic acid compounds. Alternatively, the reagents may also include one or more buffer solutions.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 2 as follows:

Representative examples of probes of the present invention comprised of vinyllogous carboxylic acid compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds: ~~3,4-dihydroxy 3-cyclobutene-1,2-dione~~ 3,4-dihydroxy-3-cyclobutene-1,2-dione (squaric acid); ~~2,5-dihydroxy 1,4-benzoquinone~~ 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-benzoquinone; ~~4,5-dihydroxy 4-cyclopentene-1,2,3-trione~~ 4,5-dihydroxy-4-cyclopentene-1,2,3-trione (croconic acid); ~~2-hydroxy 2,4,6-cycloheptatrienone~~ 2-hydroxy-2,4,6-cycloheptatrienone (tropolone); ~~6-hydroxy 1-tetralone~~ 6-hydroxy-1-tetralone and ~~5,5-dimethyl 1,3-cyclohexanedione~~ 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (dimedone). These compounds are illustrated as:

Amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 20 as follows:

Other examples of compounds which fit the definition of the present invention further include: ~~5,6-dihydroxy 5-cyclohexene-1,2,3,4-tetraone~~ 5,6-dihydroxy-5-cyclohexene-1,2,3,4-tetraone (rhodizonic acid); ~~2-hydroxy 1,4-napthoquinone~~ 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone; ~~3-oxogulofuranolactone~~ 3-oxogulofuranolactone; ~~2,2-dimethyl 1,3-dioxane~~ 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane; ~~4,6-dione 4-ketobutyrolactam~~ 4,6-dione-4-ketobutyrolactam; ~~tetrahydrofuran-2,4-dione~~ tetrahydrofuran-2,4-dione; ~~2,3-dihydroxy 2-cycloprofenegne~~ 2,3-dihydroxy-2-cycloprofenegne (deltic acid) and uric acid. As described above, embodiments of the invention include tautomers, in particular keto-enol tautomers. One example of the keto-enol tautomerization equilibria in accordance with the present invention is shown below: